GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5013
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
IMPORT OF MILK POWDER
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM PRASAD SINGH;SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are negotiating with WTO counties to levy duty on import of milk powder;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries involved in negotiation and agreed with the view point of India;

(c) the milk powder imported during each of the last three years and proposed to be imported during the current year; and

(d) the justification for this imports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Two tariff lines for milk powder (HS Codes 0402.10 and 0402.21) were bound at zero per cent duty prior to Uruguay Round. In September, 1996, the Government initiated the process of upward revision of the bindings under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994. Under the procedure prescribed under this Article, Government engaged in negotiations with the European community, Australia and USA who held the negotiating rights for the milk powder tariff lines. As a result of the negotiations, the tariff binding for both lines has been raised to 60% with a tariff rate quota of 10,000 MT per annum at 15%, for both the tariff lines together on a global basis.

(c) to (d): A statement indication the import of milk powder during the last three years (1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000- April, 99 to August, 99) is annexed. Since Government does not import any milk powder, the question of justification for the imports does not arise.